Alberta. Going strong.

Ambassadors In Action

APRIL 2006

Greetings

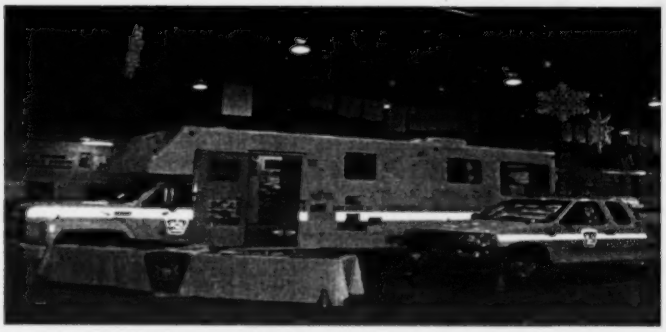
Welcome to spring 2006! As the Ambassador Program moves forward into 2006-2007, this is an opportune time to look back at the successes of the past year. Thank you to the Ambassadors who participated in events throughout 2005-2006. I look forward to working with you in 2006-2007 and promoting the Alberta public service and all it has to offer!

Looking Back to 2005-2006

- Quarterly meetings were held with the Lead Ambassadors in May, August, November and February.
- The Ambassadors in Action Newsletter was published in April and August. The April newsletter highlighted accomplishments for 2004-2005 and the August newsletter promoted upcoming Ambassador events for 2005-2006.
- A general Orientation session was held for new Ambassadors in September. 18 Ambassadors attended and 100% of survey respondents strongly agreed/agreed that they understood the objectives of the program and their role as Ambassadors. 100% of respondents were satisfied with their orientation to the Ambassador Program.
- The Ambassador Toolkit was updated to reflect current information and given a new look.
- A PowerPoint presentation "Working in the Alberta Public Service" was developed as a resource for those Ambassadors making presentations.
- Ambassadors were informed of the "Working in the Alberta Public Service" video as another resource available to them.
- The promotional postcard given out at career fairs was revised and reprinted.
- Various ministries were supported in their initiatives by providing promotional materials such as portfolios, postcards, sunglass holders, rulers, highlighters, and the display boards.
- Ministry specific initiatives included new Ambassador recruitment and orientation, creation of promotional materials and display booths, participation in career fairs targeted to their recruitment needs, information interviews, career forums, class presentations, etc.
- An article promoting the Ambassador Program was published in the Winter 05 edition of Connexus magazine.
- Participated in 2 employer information sessions (Alberta Finance Summer Students; University of Alberta Career and Placement Services Orientation).
- Hosted 2 new employer information sessions at the University of Alberta (Applying for Jobs in the Government of Alberta for MBA students; Careers in the Alberta Public Service for students from all faculties).
- Participated in 6 University of Alberta Career Forums (Alternative Careers for Education; Earth and Atmospheric Sciences; Agriculture; Environmental and Conservation Sciences; Economics; Finance).
- Participated in 15 career fairs, 5 of which were new career fairs (University of Calgary; University of Alberta; University of Lethbridge; The Career Show; Cold Lake First Nations; SAIT; Canada Career Week; U of A Health Sciences; U of A Summer Job Fair; Concordia; SAIT/Chinook Lodge; Grande Prairie Regional College; Mount Royal College; Red Deer College; NAIT).
- The Focus on Aboriginal People Sub-team and the Mid-career Audience Sub-team continued to focus on identifying supports for these recruitment areas.
- Ambassadors who participated in events from April 2005 to March 2006 will be recognized by the Public Service Commissioner. Over 150 Ambassadors will receive thank you letters in early May! ◄

Hinton Family Safety Night

by Denise Houle, Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation



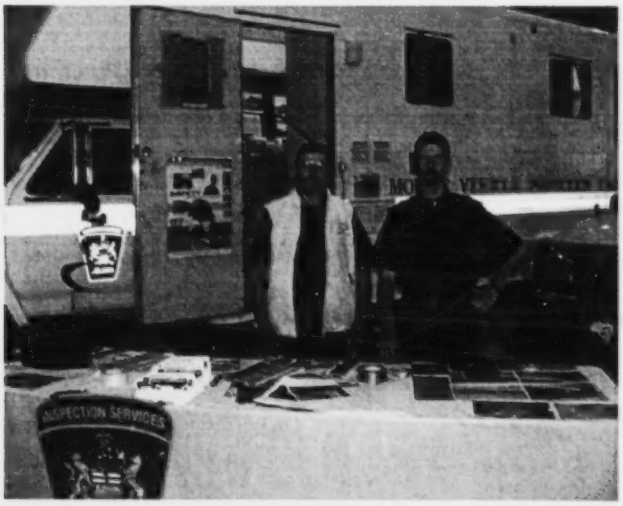
I had the opportunity of participating in organizing the Hinton Family Safety Night along with Ryan Eichorn of the Hinton Vehicle Inspection Station. We were on an organizing team with representatives from West Fraser, the Town of Hinton and other government and private organizations.

The Hinton Family Safety Night was held on June 1, 2005 and it was a VERY successful evening. It was held from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Steve Hotchkiss Arena in Hinton.

Although, Ryan and Ben Biro, of the Edson Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch, and myself focused more on the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Branch, I ensured that all information for the Government of Alberta was available to the visitors of the Hinton Family Safety Night.

Some of the other provincial government agencies that attended were Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and Alberta Health had various booths. Federal agencies in attendance were the RCMP and CN Police, and Municipal agencies that attended were the Hinton EMS, Hinton Fire Department, and Hinton Drug Action Committee among others.

This was the 4th consecutive year for the event and it was very successful with well over 800 people attending. ◄



Northern Alberta Job Fair

by Norman Brownlee, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development

The Northern Alberta Job Fair held at the Crystal Centre in Grande Prairie on November 2, 2005 was a wild event. I knew it was going to be a busy day when crowds appeared at our SRD display 30 minutes before the start of the show!

Some 45 different industry and government agencies were represented offering both permanent and seasonal employment opportunities. When the doors to the hall finally closed at 7:00 p.m. a total of 2,080 people had visited...Wow!

With a population now surpassing 44,000, the Grande Prairie area is booming and student interest in Sustainable Resource Development careers in forest management, protection, agrology, and fish and wildlife programs was very high. The Alberta Public Service Jobs website information was also provided to visitors who found it a valuable tool. Thanks to Chris Churchill for the much needed career brochures and related supplies – they disappeared like free donuts. See you again in 2006, Grande Prairie. ◄

Down to Business

By Richard Duncan, Alberta Municipal Affairs

On February 15, the Hon. Rob Renner, Minister of Municipal Affairs, and Gerry Jacubo, Assistant Director of Human Resource Services and Lead Ambassador for Municipal Affairs, gave a presentation to first and second-year Masters of Business Administration (MBA) students at the University of Alberta's School of Business. The presentation was done as part of the Ambassador Program to create awareness of career opportunities within the department as well as the Alberta Public Service.

Minister Rob Renner (left) and Human Resource Service's Gerry Jacubo (right) give a presentation to first and second-year MBA students at the U of A's School of Business on February 15.

The Minister's presentation focused on some of the challenges and opportunities surrounding public administration, including succession planning. Through the presentation, students learned that 40 to 50 per cent of managers within the government are eligible for retirement. Gerry's part of the presentation focused on providing the students with tips the students could use when preparing for interviews with Municipal Affairs and other Government of Alberta departments.

The students had many questions for the Minister, including what role Municipal Affairs plays in helping municipalities penetrate foreign markets, whether the Deputy Minister position is more of a strategic or administrative one, and what the department and the Government of Alberta is doing to attract high-quality staff. ◄

Employer Information Sessions – Promoting the Alberta Public Service!

The Ambassador Program ventured into new territory this past year by hosting 2 employer information sessions. An employer information session is different from a career forum or employer panel, in that only one employer presents at the information session and, as such, the session is focused on that employer and all it has to offer – it's the only show in town for at least 2 hours!

The first new employer information session, Applying for Jobs in the Government of Alberta, was held for MBA students at the University of Alberta School of Business on January 19. About 40 MBA students attended the information session to learn about the Alberta Public Service and tips for applying for jobs with us. Ron Morie and Kim Smith, Ambassadors from the Alberta Personnel Administration Office, presented information on the APS and all it has to offer, the recruitment process, job advertisements and qualification statements, resume and cover letter writing, and interviews. Students asked a variety of questions and commented that they found the information very interesting, informative, and useful once they begin their search for employment.

The second new employer information session, Careers in the Alberta Public Service, was held for University of Alberta students from all faculties on the evening of March 9 and was arranged through the Career and Placement Services Office. About 25 students attended the session and learned about the Alberta Public Service and the career experiences of various Ambassadors. Kim Smith facilitated the information session and was joined by Tom Loo, Director of Transportation and Civil Engineering, Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation who presented on careers in engineering; Raeleen Siu, Classification Consultant, Alberta Personnel Administration Office who spoke about internships and careers in human resources; David Mulyk, Senior Compliance Officer, Alberta Finance who spoke about careers in compliance and policy and planning; and Verna Carlson, Acting Assistant Director, Alberta Seniors and Community Supports who spoke about careers in human services and law. The inquisitive and hungry students asked a lot of questions during the networking portion of the session and enjoyed the sandwiches and cookies we provided. Ambassadors talked to the students for about a half hour longer than the session was scheduled for! Thank you to everyone who helped to make these events a success! ◄

Looking Ahead to 2006-2007

- 23 Ambassadors have registered for the Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Session on Thursday, April 20 at the Oteenow Employment Centre.
- We have registered a booth at the Meet the North Conference, Trade Show, and Job Fair being held in Edmonton on May 8, 9, 10. This is an opportunity for ministries that recruit in the north to showcase their career opportunities.
- Lead Ambassadors will meet on May 16 to finalize priorities for 2006-2007.
- Notice of upcoming events will be provided in the August edition of the newsletter. ◄

We Want to Hear From You!

We're interested in your thoughts and ideas! If you have suggestions for the Ambassador Program, or feedback on the newsletter, or if you have an article that you would like to contribute, please contact kim.smith@gov.ab.ca.

The next edition of the Ambassadors in Action Newsletter will be in August 2006.